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THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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WASHINGTON IRVING AND HIS LITERARY FRIENDS AT SUNNYSIDE

Steel Engraving 1864

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Oliver Wendell Holmes
William Gilmore Simms
Fitz-Greene Halleck
Nathaniel Hawthorne
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THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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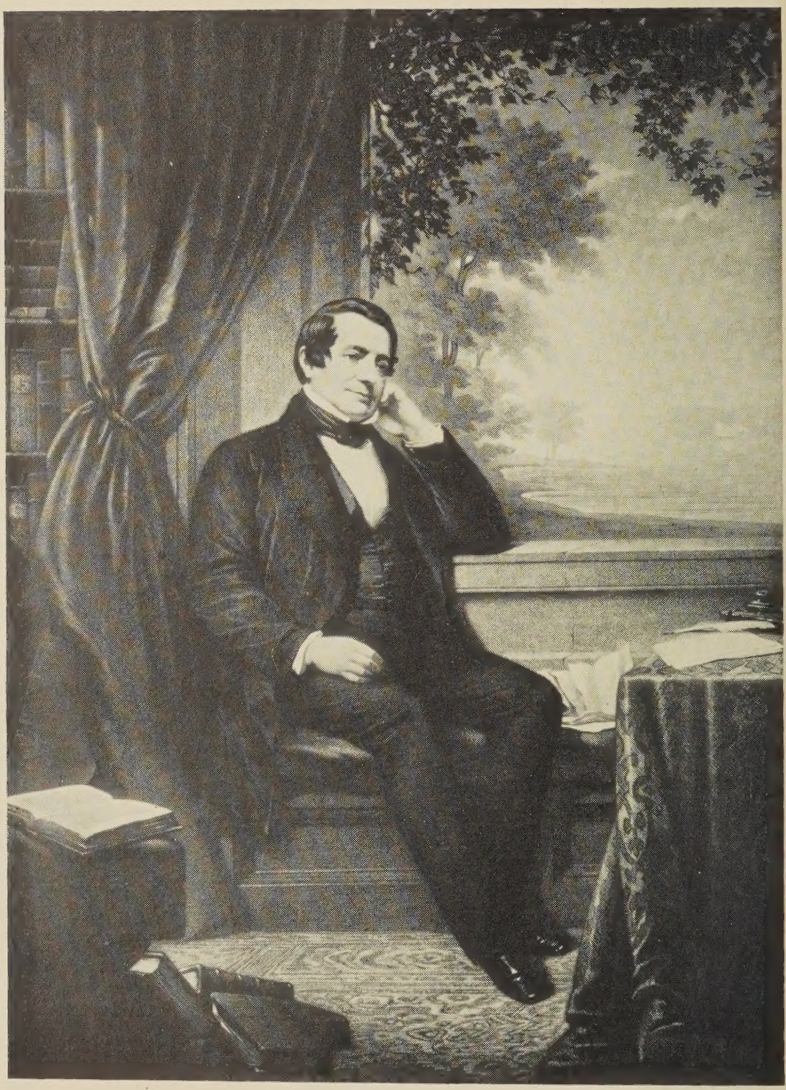

WASHINGTON IRVING IN HIS LIBRARY AT SUNNYSIDE
Steel Engraving after a Portrait by W. H. Powell
1860

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A LITTLE ABOUT WASHINGTON IRVING

by GEORGE A. ZABRISKIE

NOW THAT the excitement attending the publication of Van Wyck Brooks' *The World of Washington Irving*, his grand talk before the Society, and our presently showing exhibit of Irving material, has subsided, it might not be amiss to say just a little about Washington Irving himself.

His father was a Scotchman who, after a brief career as a sailor in British waters, married an English girl and emigrated to this country to try his luck in business. Washington was born in a modest two-story house at 131 William Street, New York City, on the 3rd day of April, 1783, the youngest of eleven children, and his name came naturally enough, as that was the year that saw the end of our War for Independence, the evacuation of New York by the British and General Washington's triumphant entry into the city. It is even said that the youngster was presented to the General who, with characteristic delicacy of feel-

ing, little dreaming that a future biographer was before him, laid his hand on the child's head and "gave him his blessing."

Irving's school advantages were very limited: he attended those of the city, his teachers being men of only moderate attainments with one exception – Jonathan Fisk – under whose direction Irving acquired a little knowledge of Latin. He seemed also to be noted for his truthfulness, though that was not of the "Cherry Tree" quality, because he often deceived his father by stealthily taking lessons in dancing and by paying frequent visits to that forbidden ground, the theatre, with which he was enchanted.

This wasn't serious, however, and it didn't follow that young Irving, though gaining little knowledge from teachers, was not acquiring mental material for future authorship, because he was.

His mind was exceedingly sensitive to happenings about him and while school books failed to command much of his attention, he had a great imagination which we see in those bewitching tales of the Hudson. He applied himself to study after a fashion though – enough to pass his examination and gain admittance to the bar in 1806.

Before that – when he was twenty – he began writing for the New York *Morning Chronicle*, of which his brother was editor, using the pseudonym of Jonathan Oldstyle. At twenty-one he sailed for Europe, remaining there two years, and after his return, published (in 1807) his *Salmagundi*. It was in 1809 that *A History of New York from the Beginning of the World to the End of the Dutch Dynasty*, by Diedrich Knickerbocker, a humorous, whimsical and genially satirical sketch, appeared; and that was the beginning of his literary success: it brought him reputation and money – also a resolve to quit the law business and write for a living.

Advertising, like the country, was in its infancy then, but the way the "History" was announced and placed on the market could be emulated with success and profit by present-day organizations. Here was the program: – A paragraph appeared in

the New York *Evening Post* calling attention to the disappearance of "a small, elderly gentleman, dressed in an old black coat and cocked hat, by the name of Knickerbocker." A week later another paragraph appeared, purporting to come from a correspondent who said that he had seen the old gentleman resting himself by the side of the road a little above King's Bridge. As this information did not clear up the matter, the landlord of the Independent Columbia Hotel, Mulberry Street, where Knickerbocker had lived, sent a letter to the *Post* stating that "a very curious kind of written book" had been found, which he intended to dispose of to adjust the bill for board and lodging. Could any advertising agency these days do better? Very little expenditure, but when the "curious kind of written book" was published the whole town was anxiously waiting for it and went into ecstasies.

The dedication of the *Knickerbocker History* to The New-York Historical Society, "as a humble and unworthy testimony of the profound veneration and exalted esteem of the Society's sincere well-wisher and devoted servant, Diedrich Knickerbocker," led many to take seriously as "a sober matter-of-fact history of our Dutch progenitors" what was intended rather as "covert humor," and although Irving declared that he had taken the old Dutch names at random, many a descendent of those original colonists was particularly incensed at "this irreverent handling of their Dutch ancestors."

A member of our Society, Washington Irving presented us with one of the first copies off the press and proposed that we erect a wooden statue of Knickerbocker in Bowling Green Park. Just how deep our Society was in all this may be guessed by noting our desire to preserve the anonymity of the author, for in the 1813–1814 *Catalogue* of the Society's holdings, no listing appears under "Irving," but the famous *History of New York* is listed seriously enough under "Knickerbocker, Diedrich."

Anyway, Irving said many years later that "it was a confounded impudent thing in such a youngster as I was, to be

meddling in this way with old family names; but I did not dream of offence." Even so, nearly a hundred years after Irving wrote this apology, Mr. Brooks remarks in his book that this "piece of learned spoofing" has offended descendants of the Dutch down to our own day, when Hendrik van Loon "often spoke of Irving with a somewhat disgusted annoyance."

Irving made up the name of Diedrich Knickerbocker, the reputed author of the history, and thus put into circulation a word that is plastered all over New York City today. Open the telephone directory, and you can go down the list, from the Knickerbocker Advertising Company to Knickerbocker bedding, braid, book, cigar, cloak, elevator gate, funeral chair, hair cloth, poultry, toy, village and even the Knickerbocker Exterminating Company, which, of course, doesn't exterminate Knickerbockers. Irving laughingly ascribed two meanings to the name, one of which was synonymous with elbow-bender or toss-pot. He complained that the word was already appearing on ice carts, which must have been the forerunner of our own Knickerbocker Ice Company.

In the preface to his first edition he says, "Nor must I neglect to acknowledge how greatly I have been assisted by that admirable and praiseworthy institution, the New-York Historical Society, to which I here publicly return my sincere acknowledgments."

As he made acknowledgment to the Society in this, the earliest of his major works, so also was he indebted to it for materials in the culminating work of his life – his three-volume biography of George Washington, and in between, he spent much time at the Society, expressing himself frequently that nothing gratified him so much as mingling with the members and invited guests at the occasional Society soirées.

In his early years Irving was a Federalist, favoring John Quincy Adams as against Andrew Jackson, and opposing the Jeffersonian idea of limiting the terms of a president. From

DIEDRICH KNICKERBOCKER

Wooden Statue from Knickerbocker Hall

Presented by the George Shepherd Estate, 1912

Sevilla he wrote to Alexander H. Everett on February 14, 1829, "I am loath to see a man superseded who has filled his station worthily. These frequent changes in our administration are prejudicial to the country: we ought to be wary of using our power of changing our Chief Magistrate when the welfare of the country does not demand it." Well, after the recent election of F.D.R. to a fourth term there would have been no occasion for Washington Irving to criticize if he continued to feel that frequent changes of administration were "prejudicial," but after living seventeen years abroad he professed that "his feelings & political creed was changed," that the contrast between the discontent of Europe and "the general animation, cheerful pressing on to something better ahead, which appeared everywhere in this country, kept him in a fever of excitement and exultation." And Philip Hone, in his diary, describes a party given in Irving's honor on May 24th, 1832, from which Irving "came out a Jackson man."

Now to go back a little: — Irving never married: he was very much in love with Matilda, the daughter of a distinguished lawyer in New York, Josiah Ogden Hoffman, with whom he got his first law job, but shortly after the engagement was announced Matilda became ill and died, leaving a very disconsolate Washington.

After the publication of *Knickerbocker's History* there was a lull in the literary ambitions of Irving; he rested on his laurels and took it easy until the war with England induced him to accept an appointment as Secretary to Governor Tompkins, which position he held down until peace was declared in 1815, when he felt the urge to go abroad again, and this time he remained on the other side those seventeen years referred to earlier.

In 1819 Irving published the book by which he is most popularly known — the *Sketch Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Gent.* This was heartily welcomed on both sides of the Atlantic and two of the stories, "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy

Hollow," have become classics in American literature. Next came *Bracebridge Hall* in 1822 and in 1824 appeared the *Tales of a Traveller*, a collection of short stories written in pleasant fashion abroad. Eighteen twenty-six saw Irving in Spain, where he wrote one of the best and most comprehensive lives of Columbus,

MATILDA HOFFMAN (1791–1809)
Irving's Fiancée
Miniature on Ivory by Anson Dickinson
Bequest of Miss Mary Rhinelander King, 1909

which, however, he feared would be ill regarded by those "who suppose, from my having dealt so much in fiction, it must be impossible for me to tell the truth with plausibility." Still, this won for him the highest degree of Oxford and the gold medal from the Royal Society of Literature.

That land of *indolencia* must have appealed to him greatly, for he wrote to a lady friend on March 15, 1828, "We passed a charming evening on the banks of the famous Guadalquivir enjoying the mild and balmy air of a southern evening, and rejoicing in the certainty that we were at length in this land of promise."

While at Cordova his eye reveled over a delightful landscape and he wrote again to the same lady a few weeks later that "every bend of the river presents a new landscape, for it is beset by old Moorish mills of the most picturesque forms; each mill having an embattled tower – a memento of the valiant tenure by which those gallant fellows, the Moors, held this earthly paradise, having to be ready at all times for war, and as it were, to work with one hand and fight with the other. It is impossible to travel about Andalusia and not imbibe a kind feeling for those Moors. They deserved this beautiful country. They won it bravely; they enjoyed it generously and kindly. No lover ever delighted more to cherish and adore a mistress . . . than did the Moors to embellish, enrich, elevate and defend their beloved Spain. Everywhere I meet traces of their sagacity, courage, urbanity, high poetical feeling, and elegant taste. The noblest institutions in this part of Spain, the best inventions for comfortable and agreeable living . . . may be traced to the Moors."

This strikes a responsive chord, because early in the 1900's it was my good fortune to spend several pleasant months in Southern Spain, living for a time in the hotel at Granada named for Washington Irving, strolling up the boulevard of the same name to the Alhambra, and even painting one of the picturesque Moorish mills he speaks of on the Guadalquivir at Cordova.

These mills – to digress a little – built in the seventh and eighth centuries, are still in operation, getting their power from undershot wheels revolved by the river's incoming and outgoing tides, grinding their grist for the good of mankind now for 1200 years.

Not far away is the City of Sevilla. The Moors say, "He whom God loves has his house in Sevilla," and many of us remember the Tower of Giralda – reproduced in miniature by Stanford White on old Madison Square Garden – to the top of which each morning went the Moorish Kings on horseback to greet the rising sun. Yes, those Moors were gallant fellows, never thinking to lock a door unless there were Christians around.

MOORISH FLOUR MILL ON THE GUADALQUIVIR AT CORDOVA
The Oldest Operating Mill in the World, Built A.D. 700–712
Oil Sketch by George A. Zabriskie

Washington Irving must have absorbed much of this feeling; he was a great lover of Spain and the romantic, else he never could have written his *Conquest of Granada*, 1829, his *Spanish Voyages of Discovery*, 1831, and later his *Moorish Chronicles*, *Mohamet and His Successors*, *Legends of the Conquest of Spain*, etc. Through all of these there is a certain cheerfulness; the most striking quality of all his works, in fact, is charm, whether he writes of ghosts and goblins or castles or prairies or men and women.

Irving was in truth an ambassador of good will. While his literary skill brought him fame and distinction, these can never be separated from that unfailing courtesy and integrity of character that won for him the admiration and affection of all among whom he worked wherever he traveled. His modesty in success,

"TOWER OF GIRALDA" ON OLD MADISON SQUARE GARDEN
As Stanford White Reproduced It in Miniature
Photographed 1892

his kindly sympathy and his generous encouragement of young authors account for the esteem in which he was held for half a century.

His friendliness with Spain brought him the appointment of United States Minister at Madrid in 1841 and he continued his historical writing until he came home for good in 1849, welcomed with national honor in recognition of the "good neighbor policy" he had so long and consistently practiced abroad. Forthwith he went to Sunnyside, his home on the Hudson; where he set himself to the grateful task of giving happiness to his kinsfolk and friends, among whom he spread that good humor which was for him "the oil and wine for a merry meeting." It was said that "his life was as beautiful and wholesome as his books," and no finer tribute could be paid to him than the motto adopted by the most modern high school in the world, taken from his own *Bracebridge Hall:*

> "The fire of hospitality in the hall,
> The genial flame of charity in the heart."

Sources:

The Life and Letters of Washington Irving, by his nephew, Pierre M. Irving (1863).

Irving's *A Chronicle of the Conquest of Granada.*

Philip Hone's *Diary*.

Letters from John Pintard to His Daughter, Eliza Noel Pintard Davidson, 1816–1833. (The New-York Historical Society, 1940–41.)

Harry Hansen, in the New York *World Telegram*, September 28, 1944.

Knickerbocker's History of New York, by Washington Irving (1809 and 1867 editions).

KILIAEN VAN RENSSELAER I (1585–1646)
Painting in possession of
Mrs. Benjamin W. Arnold (Elizabeth Van Rensselaer)
Albany, N. Y.

THE VAN RENSSELAERS OF RENSSELAERWYCK

IN PREPARING by request this brief sketch of Rensselaerwyck, I am indebted to Mrs. Martha J. Lamb, Dunkin H. Sill, Miss Florence Van Rensselaer and other historians of New York for their accounts of the Patroonship and Manor.

The Van Rensselaer family name was already old and well-known in the annals of the landed gentry of Guilderland, one of the provinces of the Netherlands, when Kiliaen Van Rensselaer, the first Patroon, was born in 1585. At this period Spain's soldiers were still ravaging the "Low Countries," and the Dutch, mourning the loss of their great Stadtholder, "William the Silent," who had been treacherously assassinated the year before, continued desperately fighting under his young son, Prince Maurice of Orange, to free themselves from the tyranny of Philip II.

Kiliaen was named after his grandfather. His father Hendrick, who married Maria Pafraet, was a captain in the Dutch army, as was also Hendrick's twin brother, Johan.

It may be of passing interest to know that Kiliaen Van Rensselaer in his later years stated that he held a portion of his Guilderland property as a fief from the Abbess of the Convent of Hoch Elten and part as a fief from the Abbott of Paderborn. These fiefs covered the original Van Rensselaer estates and were granted in medieval days, the family having owned and lived on their property near the Renslerberg for over two hundred years before Kiliaen's birth.

The foundation of the Manor and its long and flourishing career in the very heart of a republican state is one of the themes which will never fail to interest the student both of law and of history. It was created at the beginning of the rise of the famous Dutch West India Company, to which New York owes its origin.

This Company was invested with enormous powers. It was authorized to conquer provinces and countries, form alliances with native princes, build forts, project plantations, appoint officers and administer justice – subject to the approval of the States-General of Holland.

Its governing body was the College of XIX, consisting of nineteen delegates from five chambers of managers, located in the five principal Dutch cities. The Amsterdam Chamber furnished eight of the nineteen delegates. Great care was exercised in the selection of the directors for each chamber, and men only of wealth and the highest known integrity were eligible for the trust. The eight chosen men, who were placed over the affairs of the Amsterdam Chamber, commanded the entire confidence of the nation. One of these was Kiliaen Van Rensselaer, the founder of Rensselaerwyck.

The original Manor of the family in Holland is still called Rensselaer, and is about three miles southeast of Nykerk in Guilderland.

It was originally a "Reddergoed," the possession of which conferred nobility. Mr. Eugene Schuyler, in writing of his travels in Holland, says that "There was scarcely a church that I visited in Guilderland that did not have somewhere the Van Rensselaer arms on the tombstones, either alone or quartered with others; and I could trace on some stone farm buildings – which remain on the old Manor – the Family Crest."

The Van Rensselaer family in Holland had been of note for generations before the founding of the Dutch West India Trading Company, not only for their estates and accompanying wealth, but also for their valor, as they fought bravely when their services were needed to defend their country, and Hendrick, the father of Kiliaen, was killed at Ostend in 1602, during the war with Spain, and with his twin brother, who had been killed the year before, is buried beneath the Church at Nykerk, the flat tombstone giving the rank of Captain to each, with a

number of Coats of Arms and an epitaph of praise for their courageous acts.

The death of Hendrick left Kiliaen a minor and not of an age to look after the property which he inherited, and in accordance with the custom of that time, his uncle, Wolfert Van Biljer, as nearest relative, took him to instruct him in such matters, and also with the hope of interesting him in his own business which was that of diamonds, in which he had invested 100,000 guilders and supplied the Imperial Court and also the smaller Courts of Germany, Austria and Bohemia. The tradition is that Wolfert Van Biljer was murdered by a jealous courtier when on a mission at court where he was a favorite and frequently stayed with his Royal Master and friend. In this way the responsibilities of his uncle's affairs devolved upon young Kiliaen, who had arrived at his majority and was able to manage not only the business for his uncle's heirs, but his own estate, and also to enter into the affairs of his country, which led to the founding of the Dutch West India Company. The Dutch Government had established a Colony at New Amsterdam in 1614/15 and the Half Moon had made her memorable trip up the Hudson and Fort Orange was begun.

The Amsterdam Chamber was intrusted with the duty of beginning settlements in America. The States-General (June 7, 1629), arranged a law, styled the "Charter of Freedoms and Exemptions." Its intent was to induce capitalists to remove to America. It promised to make a great feudal chieftain, with the title of Patroon, of any member of the Company who would found a colony in the new territory; he would be invested with full property rights and endowed with baronial honors; he might appoint his own civil, military and judiciary officers, and administer the laws in person at his option; his tenants would owe him fealty and military service as vassals; his estate would be constituted a manor, or, in Dutch parlance, a patroonship, with privileges similar to those of a baron in England. This feudal charter

contained 31 articles, and not the least among its promises was the importation of slaves (negro) for the great landholders of the future. The directors argued that strong inducements were required to tempt men across the seas into a region of uncertainties.

While the question of the charter was pending, Kiliaen Van Rensselaer sent three of his own vessels to New York, bearing agents instructed to ascertain the most desirable situations for manorial grants, not only for himself but for three or four of his associate directors. He was one of the most enterprising and influential of the Company's officers and twice during its history is known to have advanced money to save its credit. His ships were frequently placed at the disposal of the Company in sudden emergencies, and in other ways contributing to its material prosperity he seems to have been an important factor of the great institution. His American agents executed their buiness with discretion, securing three immense tracts of land – one in Delaware – the one on the Hudson (where now stands the site of Albany) and one in New Jersey named "Pavonia."

The Van Rensselaer Patroonship is the only one of the three that survived the changes of the next half century. The land was purchased from the Indians in due form, the larger portions of it during the year 1630.

Rensselaerwyck was forty miles long and twenty-four miles wide, the Hudson river dividing it into two parts. Van Rensselaer founded his Patroonship at the confluence of the two rivers, the Mohawk and Hudson. Upon the site of his baronial acres have since arisen numerous thriving towns, villages and cities – of which are Lansingburg, Greenbush, Troy and Albany. He sent over settlers and their families, servants and merchandise; and as early as the autumn of 1630 a score of habitations were erected. A small settlement close about the fort at Albany, claimed by the West India Company, was called Beverwyck (Beavertown). Van Rensselaer's property surrounded this, and

MAP OF THE VAN RENSSELAER MANOR

From "A Chorographical Map of the Province of New York Divided into Counties, Manors Patent, and Townships, Exhibiting likewise all the private Grants of Land," Compiled by order of Major General William Tryon by Claude Joseph Sauthier and published January 1, 1779

his colony grew, multiplied, and became prosperous – more notably prosperous than any other portion of the province. It attracted exceptional attention in Holland through published descriptions of its fertility and productions. Van Rensselaer's ships were continually arriving with planters and appurtenances. The ground was tilled and comfortable houses were built, schools and churches established, and order and method were everywhere apparent.

The Patroon had his own flag and owed allegiance only to Holland, not to the Dutch Governor appointed in the interests of the Company, who was installed in the town of New Amsterdam on Manhattan Island. This flag was orange with the family coat of arms in the center and the white cross with the inscription, "Niemand Zonder"–"No man without it"– beneath it. The crest represents a brazier with flames and was granted to the family by William the Silent, Prince of Orange, in 1581, in commemoration of the fact that their brazier over the gateway of the house in Amsterdam burned more brightly than the others when William returned from a defeat of the Spanish troops under the Duke of Alba.

When the Patroonship was about ten years old every other part of the province was in distress through bloody Indian wars and incompetent rulers, but peace and comfort reigned at Rensselaerwyck. The region about Manhattan Island was desolated and the terror-stricken inhabitants who escaped the scalping knife huddled in the fort for protection. The winter of 1643 was one of the coldest on record; the suffering people were half clad and half starved – in absolute despair. At this critical moment one of Van Rensselaer's ships sailed up the bay, bearing a cargo of goods for the Patroon's colony at Rensselaerwyck.

As the Patroonship in the natural course of events grew into an independent power, the West India Company was fearful it would prove injurious to the interests of the province and made overtures to the Patroon to cede some of his rights to the corpora-

tion. He was satisfied to let things move as they had done; and being familiar with the immunities claimed for manors and municipalities in Europe, he exacted all the feudal privileges which had been granted. When the Company found he could not be bought over, instructions were given to the new Governor, Peter Stuyvesant, to circumscribe his jurisdiction as far as possible.

Not long after this time Van Rensselaer died at his home in

WEDDING RING OF
KILIAEN VAN RENSSELAER
AND ANNA VAN WELY
DECEMBER 14, 1627

Gift of
Kiliaen Van Rensselaer V
1944

Amsterdam. In July, 1616, he married a relative, Hilegond Van Biljer, by whom he had two sons, Hendrick and Johan, and one daughter, Maria. Hendrick and Maria died in infancy, Johan surviving. Hilegond lived but a little over a year after Johan's birth. Kiliaen, now forty-two years old and left with a young infant to care for, married again on December 14, 1627, another relative, Anna Van Wely, daughter of Jan Van Wely, his former partner. At this time the West India Company, in which he figured so conspicuously, was in the noontide of its wonderful career. Anna was a woman of great personal beauty. Her eight children — four sons and four daughters — were all young at the time of her husband's death and she survived him a full quarter of a century. Even Johannes, the eldest, was not yet of age and was by his father's will left under the guardianship of Johannes Van Wely, his step-grandfather, and ex-governor Woulter Van Twiller, his cousin, whose sister he afterwards married. The

guardians of the young Patroon, who were also the executors of the Van Rensselaer estate, selected Herr Brandt Arent Van Slechtenhorst, the scion of a very ancient Holland family, to manage the affairs of Rensselaerwyck and he was soon at his post.

The Society now has the wedding ring of Kiliaen Van Rensselaer and Anna Van Wely, and a silver seal of Kiliaen Van

SILVER SEAL OF KILIAEN VAN RENSSELAER I
With Modern Impression in Wax (on Left)
Gift of Kiliaen Van Rensselaer V, 1944

Rensselaer, where they are now on exhibition. This ring and seal are considered by many to be the oldest heirlooms of any family in the United States which have been handed down in a direct line for so many generations.

It would take too much time to enter into the details, but the energies of the bold and resolute Van Slechtenhorst were bent upon undeviating loyalty to the Patroon in resisting any attempt to question his right to rule. In the elements of leadership and in will-power he was not inferior to Stuyvesant, and the two remarkable men were presently in a sharp conflict. The Governor

sent a written order that no buildings should be erected by the Patroon within 600 paces of the fort at Albany. Van Slechtenhorst paid no attention to the mandate. A Sheriff was then sent up the Hudson to prevent the erection of a fort for the Patroon on Beeren Island. The quartermaster of Rensselaerwyck in his turn entered a formal complaint for the "meddlesome interference," saying the fort was only to exclude the "canker of freedom from the colonie of Rensselaerwyck," and it was completed, cannon planted, and the Patroon's flag hoisted. The next document informs us that Govert Loockermans, of the sloop "Good Hope," was ordered to strike its colors while passing Beeren Island, and not obeying, a shot was fired from the Patroon's fortress through the sloop's mainsail.

Matters were approaching a crisis. Stuyvesant's willing hands were full in straightening all sorts of crooked affairs for a short time after he reached the little Dutch dorp which is now our great metropolis. But as soon as other duties permitted he went to Rensselaerwyck with a military escort. Arriving at the fort he summoned Van Slechtenhorst into his presence to answer for contempt of authority, who came at once and charged Stuyvesant with proceeding contrary to all ancient order and usage, as if *he*, the Governor, was lord of the Patroon's colony! Stuyvesant retorted with offended dignity, and Van Slechtenhorst retorted in turn.

Stuyvesant said the buildings were objectionable and endangered the fort, and Van Slechtenhorst declared hotly that the soil on which they stood belonged to the Patroon, and that the governor's argument was a mere pretext, and used several forcible expressions in Dutch, difficult to translate into good English. No definite results were obtained and the parting was in high temper on both sides. As soon as Stuyvesant sailed for New York, Van Slechtenhorst continued his improvements, precisely as before.

Stuyvesant was perplexed. But he never lacked the courage to carry out to the very letter the peculiar policy of the Company;

and the insubordination of Van Slechtenhorst was becoming notorious.

It was a curious spectacle: a legally established government within a government, with prerogatives of sovereignty and baronial appendages akin to a principality. The child was too much for the parent. What to do about it was a problem! News traveled slowly in those primitive days and Stuyvesant, before proceeding to extremities, desired to consult the Amsterdam Chamber.

To make a long story short, Van Slechtenhorst was finally captured, brought to New Amsterdam and imprisoned for four months in the fort on the Battery, from which he made his escape by secreting himself on a sloop bound for Albany.

Once more at Rensselaerwyck, he caused the oath of allegiance to the Patroon and his representatives to be taken by all the householders and freedmen of the baronial colony, in order to hold more firmly the populous little village about the fort.

Soldiers were sent by Stuyvesant and he himself arrived and sent orders to the Manor House for the Patroon to strike his flag. Van Slechtenhorst refused peremptorily. The soldiers who bore the order then entered the grounds, fired a volley from their loaded muskets and hauled down the flag themselves. Stuyvesant proceeded to erect a court of justice in the village apart from the independence of the court of the Manor; the notice was torn down in a twinkling, and a proclamation asserting the Patroon posted in its place.

The course of Stuyvesant was variously criticised, but it severed the village of Beverwyck, the germ of the present city of Albany, from the estate of the Van Rensselaers. The controversy in due course of events was brought before the States-General in Holland, which was inclined to favor the Patroon.

After the English came into possession of New York, Nicolls, the English governor, ordered the renewal of all land patents. Jeremias Van Rensselaer created a buzz of excitement by claiming Albany as a part of Rensselaerwyck. Nicolls declined to

admit the claim, referring the question to the Duke of York. It continued unsettled until 1673, when New York was retaken by the Dutch, and then, at that late day, came an order from the States-General for the restoration of Beverwyck to the Patroon. Before obedience could be enforced, New York was again an English province; but the same order was issued by the Duke of York's law council in England and Sir Edmund Andros was instructed to deliver up the village to the Patroon, who was authorized to levy a tax of three beavers on each dwelling house for thirty years, and afterwards such an amount as could be agreed upon with the inhabitants. Andros never executed the order and his successor, Governor Dongan, said "it was all wrong for the second best town of the government to be in the hands of any particular man." He visited the Patroon in person and made formal purchase of a concession of his feudal rights over the miniature capital of our State, and from thence sixteen miles into the country westward. The next year (1686), Albany was incorporated into a city.

The valiant and irrepressible Van Slechtenhorst was succeeded in the directorship, in 1652, by Jan Baptist Van Rensselaer, a half brother of the second Patroon, Johannes. The latter had once or twice visited his great possessions in the New World, but he had resided in Holland. Jan Baptist Van Rensselaer was twenty-two years of age at this time and notwithstanding that Stuyvesant pronounced him frivolous, was very popular. Philip Petersen Schuyler was also twenty-two when he reached Albany in the early part of 1650. The first important event in his career thereafter (of which we have any definite knowledge) was his marriage to Margretta, one of the daughters of Van Slechtenhorst. The wedding festivities in the Manor House on the 12th day of December, 1650, brought together all the best people of the province. The bride herself was twenty-two, and resembled her father in many ways; she was fully his equal in independence of spirit and force of character. Mrs. Schuyler had two daughters.

Gertrude was the wife of Stephenus Van Cortlandt, the Mayor of New York City. Alida, the other daughter, was next to Gertrude in point of age and at seventeen married Rev. Nicholaus Van Rensselaer, the eighth child of the first Patroon and brother of the second. He was an ordained clergyman who had been licensed by Charles II to preach in the Dutch church at Westminster, and came to New York recommended by James, Duke of York, to fill one of the Dutch pulpits in the province. His familiar acquaintance with Charles commenced when the latter was an exile in Holland, whose restoration to the throne he predicted. Soon after that happy event, Van Rensselaer was appointed chaplain to the Dutch Embassy in England, where he was quickly recognized by the King, who presented him with a gold snuff-box with his royal portrait on the lid. The dominie died in Albany. His widow, in 1673, married Robert Livingston, the founder of the Livingston family in America. Thus not only the Schuylers, but the whole race of Livingston, also one of the leading branches of the Van Cortlandts, as well as many of the Van Rensselaers, trace their descent from the courageous and able Van Slechtenhorst.

In 1658 Jan Baptist Van Rensselaer returned to Holland, where he married and remained. His next brother, Jeremias, succeeded him as Director of Rensselaerwyck and for sixteen years managed its affairs with discretion and acceptance. His portrait represents a singularly handsome man. He acquired great influence among the Indians and won sincere respect of the French in Canada. His correspondence, which still exists, shows native talent and enormous industry. He presided over the Landtag, or Diet, that assembled in New Amsterdam about five months before the surrender of the province, it having been called by Stuyvesant to discuss the precarious condition of affairs and give advice. His wife, Maria, was the daughter of Oloff Stevenson Van Cortlandt, the first of the family in New York; their daughter, Maria Van Rensselaer, married Peter Schuyler, the first

VAN RENSSELAER MANOR HOUSE, ALBANY, N. Y.
The Seat of Gen. Stephen Van Rensselaer
From nature and on stone by Eugene Sintzenich, Albany

Mayor of Albany. Thus Van Rensselaer, Schuyler, Livingston and Van Cortlandt were not only contemporaries, but brothers-in-law all around — in a certain sense, members of the same family circle. The eldest son of Jeremias Van Rensselaer became the next Patroon. His name was Kiliaen and he married his cousin, who bore the same name as his mother, Maria Van Cortlandt. She was the daughter of Mayor Stephenus and Gertrude Van Cortlandt. This Patroon occupied a seat in the assembly from 1691 to 1703 and he was the first grantee of the Manor under the English patent of 1704. His two sons, Jeremias and Stephen, were successive lords of the Manor. The former died without children. Stephen died in 1747, leaving a son, Stephen, five years of age, who upon reaching his majority built the present Manor House, now removed to Williamstown.

To many of the present generation a simple sketch of the style of life of these old feudal chieftains would read like a veritable romance. Upon the Van Rensselaer Manor there was at one period several thousand tenants and their gatherings were similar to those of the old Scottish clans. When a lord of a manor died, these people swarmed about the manor house to do honor at the funeral. They regarded the head of the family with reverence, a feeling shared by the whole country. The manor house was well peopled with negro slaves. The Manor always had its representative in the assembly; and whenever it was announced in New York that the Patroon was coming to the city by land, the day he was expected crowds would turn out to see him drive through Broadway with his coach and four.

Stephen Van Rensselaer, the last of the Patroons, was destined to bridge the chasm between the two opposite political systems. He belonged in a manner to both. He was a scion of a feudal aristocracy that had a legalized and legitimate growth, yet the country did not contain a more conscientious republican than he was. His mother was Catherine, daughter of Philip Livingston, the signer of the Declaration of Independence. Stephen was born in 1764, the subject of a king, with immense inherited estates, as well as chartered baronial rights, the proprietary of a landed interest remarkable for any country. He favored from his earliest youth the changing sentiment in America regarding popular sovereignty — cherished the democratic doctrine that all men are equal; nor during his entire life did he ever lament the loss of his power and consequence.

When he came into possession of his vast domains, shortly after peace was restored, he is said to have leased as many as nine hundred farms of one hundred and fifty acres each, on long terms.

He married before he was twenty the daughter of General Philip Schuyler and thus was brought into near relationship with both Schuyler and Alexander Hamilton. Philip Van Rensselaer, his only brother, married the daughter of Lieutenant-Governor

Pierre Van Cortlandt, who was Mayor of Albany for many years. Their only sister married John Bradstreet Schuyler.

The young Patroon was soon in public life. In the great struggle over the constitution, he was a warm partisan, espousing the cause which his brother-in-law, Hamilton, was using his wonderful genius to promote. In 1789 Van Rensselaer was elected to the assembly by a large majority. Ere long he became an arm of strength to his party. He was much admired by Washington and, while New York was the seat of the first national government, he was a frequent and welcome guest at the President's table. In 1790 he was elected to the senate of the State. In 1795 he was chosen lieutenant-governor of the State, with John Jay governor. In 1799 both gentlemen were renominated and both reëlected. Van Rensselaer had not even an opposing candidate, both parties having made him their choice. It was said that no individual in the State at the time carried with him more potent personal influence. And it was the man, not the trappings. He seemed to have inherited the virtues of all his notable ancestors. He was a Christian, a philanthropist and a patriot, as well as a gentleman. He assumed nothing. He offended no one. His judgment was respected and his unconquerable firmness wherever a principle was at stake was well known.

In 1812 he was in command of all the militia of the State. His troops, badly equipped, badly armed and badly rationed, alone opposed the trained British troops under the command of General Sheaffe on the Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers. General Van Rensselaer's headquarters were near Fort Niagara and he prevented the British from crossing the river and invading New York State. At Queenstown Heights he was wounded four times by musket fire.

He was one of the first commissioners appointed to explore a route for the Erie Canal in 1819, and with DeWitt Clinton and Gouverneur Morris rode on horseback from Albany to Lake Erie.

After the war the Patroon entered heart and soul into the canal project. During one of the debates of the Assembly he sent in a proposition for undertaking the whole Erie Canal at his own expense, so confident was he of the vast profits and advantages in prospect. He was a member of Congress from 1823 to 1829, and had the honor, by giving the casting vote, of determining the election of John Quincy Adams to the presidency of the nation. He was through all those years a regent of the University of the State, and subsequently became its chancellor. He established a scientific school at Troy, which was incorporated in 1826 as the Rensselaer Institute. He was also one of the founders of the Albany Institute and was its first president. No act of his seemed to have provoked criticism or reproof.

His first wife died early, leaving one son, Stephen. He married again in 1802, Cornelia Paterson, only daughter of Judge William Paterson of the Supreme Court. They had nine children and at the death of the Patroon the manor property was divided among them.

The Society now has a portrait of General Stephen Van Rensselaer, my great-grandfather, by Samuel F. B. Morse, which was painted about 1830; also two miniatures of the General and his wife, Cornelia Paterson, by Charles Fraser.

The leasehold system of leasing farms, sometimes in perpetuity or for long terms, gave rise to the antirent agitation of 1836. The leasehold tenures were of two kinds: first those in which a rent in kind or in money was paid; and in addition certain services of feudal origin were contracted for. The lands held on such leases were principally those of the old Manors along the Hudson, especially Rensselaer and Livingston. The second class was composed of those paying a rent in money or in kind, but with no further conditions.

In the Patroonship, later the Manor of Rensselaerwyck, the Proprietor had feudal jurisdiction of an extensive kind, including

GENERAL STEPHEN VAN RENSSELAER (1764–1839)
In the Library of the Manor House, Albany
Oil Portrait Ascribed to Samuel F. B. Morse, 1829
Gift of Kiliaen Van Rensselaer V, 1944

the administration of justice, the imposing of the death penalty without appeal, the right of appointment of magistrates and ministers of the gospel, and escheats, besides his ownership of the soil. The Manor in later times was represented also by a delegate in the General Assembly, ordinarily either the Patroon or his appointee. Naturally, therefore, the contracts with his tenants reflected this character.

General Stephen Van Rensselaer had done more to settle and improve the vast estates which he had inherited than any other of the Patroons, his ancestors, but besides refusing to sell any of his lands, he was also remiss in collecting of rents. And in the case of favorite tenants and those who had suffered misfortune, or otherwise had difficulty in meeting the regular payments, he was in the habit of letting the rent run on almost indefinitely. This was mistaken generosity on his part, unless the payments were finally to be remitted altogether, and under its working a large amount of arrears became due him, much of it rents of many years standing. This indebtedness is said to have reached half a million of dollars. Upon his death (January 26, 1839), it was found that these back-rents, instead of being remitted, were ordered to be applied to the payment of his own debts – almost an equal amount. The will provided for the remission of the debt in cases of utter inability or misfortune, but there was a large amount of arrears of rent which this did not affect in the least.

In the attempt to collect these arrears, the Antirent War, so-called, found its inception. This agitation in Albany and Rensselaer Counties was cited as recently as 1892 in the English House of Commons in debate over the question of Home Rule for Ireland.

When several attempts to serve writs to appear in court on persons owing arrears to the Patroon or his heirs had been frustrated, Mr. Lansing, the agent for the Estate, appealed to the Sheriff. The latter called for a posse comitatus, which was quickly made up of citizens of Albany, and at the head of 500 unarmed

men he set out on January 2, 1839, to serve the aforesaid writs. The first serious opposition was encountered near Reidsville, in the foothills of the Helderberg, when 600 armed horsemen, first seen at Clarksville earlier in the day about twelve miles from Albany, completely blocked the way. This array of strength held up the sheriff's party about an hour, but finally let it pass and proceed to Reidsville proper. Here a small army of 1800 farmers had congregated and peremptorily refused to let the sheriff's officers serve the court writs or put up for the night. After a consultation the Sheriff decided not to force matters and to return to Albany to report to the Governor. Governor William H. Seward was duly acquainted with the occurrences of the day and although it was eleven o'clock at night he gave orders that the militia be at once called out, armed with side-arms and equipment to support the Sheriff in the enforcement of the law. He then ordered Brigadier General Averill of Montgomery County to be prepared to march a portion of his brigade. The Governor furthermore instructed the Sheriff to obtain writs of two kinds against those who had resisted him in the performance of his duty: attachments from the Supreme Court for contempt, and warrants of arrest from a justice of the peace.

On the sheriff's second visit to Reidsville at the head of the troops under General Averill, the citizens of that place sent word to Governor Seward that they would not resist further the service of writs. The force in consequence was again withdrawn without bloodshed. The Governor took the whole matter up in his annual message of January 7, 1840, and called attention to the character of the tenures. The Governor proposed a meeting of representatives of the proprietor and tenants. This meeting resulted in a kind of settlement which held the whole trouble in abeyance for a year.

In 1841 the agitation spread to Rensselaer County on the other side of the Hudson, owned by William Paterson Van Rensselaer, second son of the Patroon and named for his grandfather, William

Paterson, the first Governor of New Jersey and an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. Resistance to writs and personal outrages were committed and antirent associations were formed, which demanded that the State Senate buy out the landlord and dispose of the land to the actual occupant. Members of these associations committed many outrages in disguise and under assumed Indian names. In the summer of 1844 two inoffensive citizens were murdered by a band of these "Indians" at Smoky Hollow, six miles from the town of Hudson. When the Sheriff attempted arrest of the offenders he had his warrant of arrest taken from him and burned. William Paterson Van Rensselaer and his wife were chased in a sleigh many miles by a band of mounted "Indians" and barely escaped. They were living at this time at "Beverwyck," a large house which was built on the east bank of the Hudson near Fort Crailo, by General Stephen Van Rensselaer, and was given by him to his second son, to whom he bequeathed all his property on the east side of the Hudson extending to the State of Massachusetts. In this house Kiliaen Van Rensselaer IV, my father, was born on February 14, 1845, and the old brass cannon at the Manor House opposite was fired as was the custom when a male heir was born.

The original Manor House was torn down by Stephen Van Rensselaer II, father of the General, and the new one built in 1764, at the time of his marriage to Catharine Livingston. This is the house the main portion of which was removed to Williamstown in 1895. It was built on the site of the original one and, like most Dutch houses, was on the river level. The house known as Fort Crailo was built by Jeremias Van Rensselaer in 1642. "Beverwyck" was built by General Stephen Van Rensselaer for his son, William, about 1825, and is still standing in the town of Rensselaer, opposite Albany.

The fact should be remembered that in all the political conflicts which agitated New York from first to last, the feudal dignitaries of Van Rensselaer Manor were in sympathy with the spirit of resistance to the encroachments of the Crown. "In the

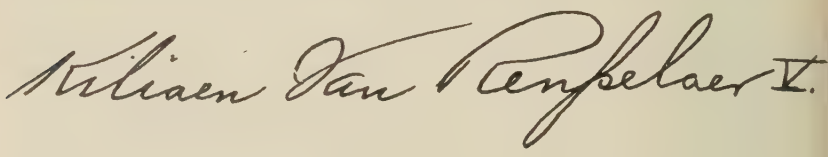
VAN RENSSELAER MANOR HOUSE
Gen. Stephen Van Rensselaer (seated, left)
Gov. DeWitt Clinton (standing, left foreground)
at the time of the opening of the Erie Canal, 1825
Lithograph in possession of Kiliaen Van Rensselaer V

vicissitudes of the times, the influence of the Manor was found on the side of the popular liberty and the people."

Even at this date, when the rent wars are one hundred years gone, it seems only fair to General Stephen Van Rensselaer — who more than anyone else aided Governor Clinton in erecting the Erie Canal — to state that the Van Rensselaers did not oppress their tenants. As previously noted, more than $500,000 back-rents were unpaid at the time of his death, and the meager attempts of his executors to collect these failing utterly, they had to be sold to settle with his estate's creditors. The Van Rensselaer family did not pursue their tenants or deprive them of their lands, as some historians have stated. The Van Rensselaers were always interested in canals, waterways and shipping, and in the welfare of their tenants, and their income came from the Lumber

District which they developed in North Albany. For years this was the largest lumber distribution point in the east and the income and profits it supplied supported the family, — not rents wrung from reluctant tenants.

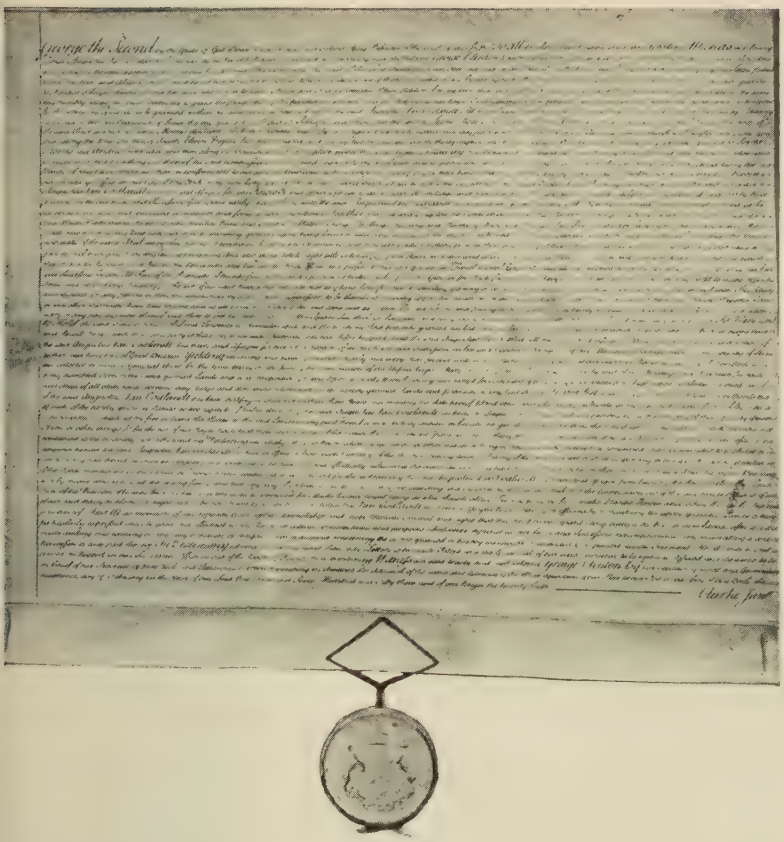
The Manor itself, for the first hundred years of its existence, actually cost the Patroon a great deal more money than he got out of it.



LETTERS PATENT OF GEORGE II TO AUGUST VAN CORTLANDT, 1753

THIS valuable document showing the conditions of land tenure in New York Province prior to the Revolution is an interesting addendum to Mr. Van Rensselaer's description in the preceding article of the manorial holdings granted by the British to the few great families of the Province as a political investment to insure their loyalty by tying their interest and influence to the British Crown. The August Van Cortlandt grant is typical of the smaller land patents of non-manorial status whereby a very large proportion of the Province was conveyed into the hands of a very small but powerful group of closely related men. The families named in the present instrument were among the most eminent of the old colonial settlers of New York.

The grant was made on February 19, 1753, under instructions from England, by Admiral George Clinton, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the Province of New York and Territories thereon depending in America, for 2,000 acres of land at Schoharie in Albany County, lying between the possessions of Mynders Schuyler, Robert Livingston, Lewis Morris, Andrias



LETTERS PATENT OF GEORGE II TO AUGUST VAN CORTLANDT, 1753
Gift of George A. Zabriskie, 1944

Coeman, and others, *reserving to the Crown the rights of all gold or silver mines and all trees of the diameter of 24 inches and upwards at 12 inches from the ground for masts etc. for the Royal Navy*. See map on page 21 for location of the grant (indicated by an arrow) in relation to surrounding holdings.

The document, a recent gift to the Society by Mr. George A. Zabriskie, is on vellum, 26 by 29½ inches, with the very interesting Great Seal of the Province of New York attached, showing the royal arms on one side and George II with an Indian chief and his wife kneeling in homage on the other.

I. N. PHELPS STOKES, 1867–1944
Painted from life for the Society in 1930
by DeWitt M. Lockman, N. A.

ISAAC NEWTON PHELPS STOKES

1867–1944

A TALL, friendly scholar "with beard of formal cut," a cultured gentleman of many enthusiasms and great energy in their pursuit, a reader who knew what he wanted and smiled his appreciation when he got it, an engaging talker on a great variety of unusual subjects, was one of the familiar figures in the halls of the New York Public Library when the present writer entered the library profession in 1914. He was at work on a geographical and pictorial history of the city and as we pored over early maps and prints of New York, a friendship began which was to last until the day before his final journey south when a long and delightful telephone conversation brought to an end a charming association of thirty years with Isaac Newton Phelps Stokes.

Architect, philanthropist, historian and collector, Mr. Stokes' useful life came to an end at his sister's home in Charleston, South Carolina, on December 18, 1944. He was born 77 years ago on April 11, 1867, in the city so memorably recorded in his great history. After graduating from Harvard in the class of 1891 he followed banking for a year and then began his life work by studying architecture for some four years at Columbia University and the École des Beaux Arts in Paris. As a member of the architectural firm of Howells and Stokes he helped design buildings for Columbia, Yale, Harvard and the University of Washington, as well as other collegiate and commercial buildings, churches and settlements in New York and elsewhere.

An authority on housing, Mr. Stokes served on important municipal, state and federal commissions and was one of the committee of three which drafted the New York State Tenement House Law of 1901. He served on the Art Commission of the City of New York and for 22 years was a member of the Board of Trustees of the New York Public Library. He won many honors in the fields of architecture, philanthropy and history, including doctorates from Columbia and New York Un-

versities. He was for several years director and president of the Phelps-Stokes Fund, a foundation interested in the education and housing of the poor.

As a collector, Mr. Stokes assembled and presented to the New York Public Library the greatest of all collections of views of American cities, a collection rich in New York items.

During most of his lifetime Mr. Stokes was a student of the history of his native city and so it was but natural that he should have become a life member of The New-York Historical Society in 1900. His lasting fame as an author rests on his monumental *The Iconography of Manhattan Island, 1498–1909*, which appeared in six sumptuous and lavishly illustrated volumes between 1915 and 1928. No other city in the world can boast of having such a complete record of its growth from trading post to metropolis. Every important early map and view of Manhattan Island is described and reproduced in this great work. The chronological history of the city is given in detail and changes of name and ownership are traced for every street, alley, lot, or farm.

Mr. Stokes, in cooperation with this Society, also published in 1939, his *New York Past and Present—Its History and Landmarks* and he was also co-author of a *History and Catalogue of the Works of the Society of Iconophiles of the City of New York*, and of two editions of *American Historical Prints, Early Views of American Cities*, 1932 and 1933.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the history of New York through the publication of his *Iconography*, The New-York Historical Society awarded to Mr. Stokes its first gold medal "For Achievement in History" on November 17, 1925, made him the sixth Honorary Member of the Society, and in April, 1930, invited him to sit for the oil portrait by DeWitt M. Lockman which hangs in our auditorium.

By the death of I. N. Phelps Stokes, the poor of New York have lost a friend, American architecture a distinguished practitioner, and his native city an outstanding historian.

R.W.G.V.

RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION OF 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN PORTRAITS

AT THE Society's invitation and under its auspices, an exhibition of representative paintings and sculptures by deceased and living members of the National Association of Portrait Painters will be opened in the Society's fourth-floor galleries from April 1 through May 5, 1945.

This distinguished group of contemporary American artists was organized in 1912 to foster an appreciation of characteristically national art in America. Its annual exhibitions, shown in the most important museums throughout the country, did much "to cultivate the American art spirit through showing the work of native-born American painters and sculptors of portraiture."

The exhibition now scheduled will be retrospective of the creative accomplishment of these notable portraitists from their beginnings to date. Among the several score of works which will comprise this brilliant show will be outstanding examples of such eminent artists as Eakins, Duveneck, Alexander, Chase, Bellows, Hawthorne, as well as John Singer Sargent – to name a few of those who will be represented but are now unfortunately no longer with us. The significance of the exhibition as exemplary of the finest portraiture produced in America during the twentieth century will be enhanced by its juxtaposition to the Society's collection of American historical portraits – possibly the largest of its kind in existence. The modern works can thus be judged in historical perspective, not only as the crown of a long and noble tradition, but also as the promise of things to come.

The Society's Committee on Fine Arts is in charge of all arrangements for the exhibition. A handsome catalogue of the works to be exhibited, now in preparation by Mr. DeWitt M. Lockman, a member of the Committee, will contain full-page plates of most of the portraits to be shown. The funds raised through the sale of this catalogue will be devoted to some deserving branch of war-relief work.

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTICES

The World of Washington Irving. By Van Wyck Brooks. (New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., 1944. 495 pages. $3.75.)

In a volume with almost every sentence packed with colorful information, Van Wyck Brooks in *The World of Washington Irving* has left New England, except in one of his twenty chapters, and has gone out into "Early National America" and in some five hundred pages gives us an expanding, experimenting, speculating America, and in so doing paints with every color and, at times, sings like a poet.

The contents of this third and latest volume of the Brooks literary histories takes its place as the first, chronologically, the other two having dealt with New England at later dates. Here the panorama starts at the turn of the century, 1800, and continues into the 1840s.

The specialists and critics may raise their eyebrows at the free-and-easiness of the time element as handled by the author, and the short comments, if any, on the writers' works, but Mr. Brooks sets out to do the job as he planned it, and the result is interesting, satisfying, and somewhat amazing, especially from the standpoint of the detailed fullness of the picture. Into the book have gone the results of years of reading of autobiographies, journals, diaries, books of travel experiences, etc., as well as the secondary sources and the work of the authors. The results of this reading come in packed pages with interesting anecdote after anecdote all embellished with local color, much to the reader's enlightenment. Maps, manuscripts, and the printed word have kept few secrets from Mr. Brooks in his search for human interest material about their lives, families and friends, especially of the minor writers who fill in the picture.

Along with Irving, Jefferson is given a prominent place. Franklin was our first internationalist, and Jefferson may be said to be our second, with possible reservations on his part. Mr. Brooks quotes a letter from Jefferson to Monroe: "My God! How little do my countrymen know what precious blessings they are in possession of, and which no other people on earth enjoy. I confess I had no idea of it myself. While we shall see multiplied instances of Europeans going to live in America, I will venture to say, no man now living will ever see an instance of an American removing to settle in Europe, and continuing there."

Mr. Brooks opens with a description of Philadelphia in 1800, the literary center of America at that time, with its bookish groups, circles, numerous magazines and many printing offices. Added to these were the English and French political refugees, such as Dr. Priestly, William Cobbett, Thomas Cooper, Talleyrand, Louis Philippe, Dupont de Nemours, and "thousands of other French families."

Other chapters move the scene to New York, New England, the South,

and the West, with individual chapters on Jefferson, Dunlap, Audubon, Cooper, Bryant, Poe, Simms, and N. P. Willis. Washington Irving as well as Cooper, abroad, and in New York, are interestingly portrayed in full chapters. Irving, abroad in England and elsewhere from the age of thirty-two until he was forty-nine, "modest, equable, cheerful, affectionate, sincere," conveyed to the English "the charm of his country, of the quiet river valleys and the sheltered nooks along the Hudson where the eagle wheeled over a little world that was full of dreams and poetry."

We do not get too much of Irving in the book; some of us never seem to get quite enough of him from any source. Mr. Brooks quotes Poe, that Irving was "the most deservedly eminent among all the pioneers of American literature." He died a bachelor in his beloved "Sunnyside," overlooking the Hudson at Tarrytown, on November 28, 1859, at the age of 76 years.

New York University LeRoy E. Kimball

Lee's Lieutenants: A Study in Command. Volume III: *Gettysburg to Appomattox.* By Douglas Southall Freeman. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1944. 825 pages, illus. $5.00.)

When I set myself the task of reading Mr. Freeman's *Lee's Lieutenants* I felt the same sense of trepidation I had years ago on buying Gibbon's *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire* from a very black Parsee in a Bombay bookshop. The bulk of both of these books tends to scare one, yet they are of such importance that one must read them. Mr. Freeman's style differs from Gibbon's, but the third volume of the *Lieutenants* deals with the same subject, the gradual disintegration of a great human effort.

The introduction prepares one for what is to come and gives Mr. Freeman's definition of the requirements of an officer to command troops. He stresses the fact that fighting is a highly technical vocation and that there is no such thing as a "born general." He adds that with few exceptions all of the truly great generals of the South had had military training before they entered the service of the Confederacy, either at West Point or at the Virginia Military Academy. A very few learned their profession in the smoke of many battles. Gordon and Hampton were the two outstanding graduates of this School of Battle and they developed late in the war.

The book itself opens with one of Jeb Stuart's favorite pastimes, a grand review of his troops, in June of 1863, when he paraded the magnificence of his cavalry before the fair ladies of the South and later gave a grand ball. This marks the peak of the armed might of the South; never again would they see an army as powerful gathered together.

Much space is given to the Battle of Gettysburg and all the endless disputes with regard to the strategy of this battle are discussed in detail.

After reading Freeman's very clear and concise account, one comes to the conclusion that so many little things, unimportant in themselves, contributed to the defeat of the Southern Army that perhaps behind it all was the Hand of God.

The first low note of the Requiem Mass of the Confederacy sounded at Chancellorsville when Jackson was mortally wounded. Jackson was the cement that held the foundation of the Southern Cause together; without him the structure began to crumble. After him more and more irreplaceable officers went to their graves, till the South lacked leaders. The Requiem Mass swells to a crescendo during the Battle of Gettysburg and goes sobbing on for two years to fade away in the utter exhaustion of the Southern Armies at Appomattox.

The four volumes of *Robert E. Lee* and the three volumes of *Lee's Lieutenants* might well be called "The Rise and Decline of the Confederacy."

New York City STUYVESANT FISH

"*A Few Appropriate Remarks.*" By F. LAURISTON BULLARD. (Harrogate, Tenn.: Lincoln Memorial University, 1944. 77 pages, illus.)

Mr. Bullard is one of the leading authorities on Lincoln and is undoubtedly the best-informed author on Lincoln's Gettysburg Address; therefore it is very interesting to get the results of his years of research on this subject.

In his book, "*A Few Appropriate Remarks*," he sifts the evidence of eye witnesses as to the writing of the Address, its delivery, and its reception and draws logical conclusions from conflicting reports.

Edward Everett, America's great orator and statesman, delivered the first address which was intended to be the main oration. Lincoln's Gettysburg speech followed.

The Committee in charge of the dedication ceremony had only asked Lincoln to speak as an after-thought, and then with mental reservations as to his ability to speak suitably on such an occasion. Their fears seemed to have been justified when, the night before the dedication, Lincoln made a most stupid speech, perhaps his poorest, to a crowd in front of his lodgings. A voice from the crowd insulted him. The same audience listened in reverence a few hours later to the greatest speech Lincoln or any American has ever made. As it says in the Bible, "The stone which the builders rejected, is become the head of the corner."

Mr. Bullard's book is full of little sidelights on Lincoln and the people of his day and is well worth reading.

New York City STUYVESANT FISH

Dutch Emigration to North America, 1624–1860—A Short History. By BERTUS HARRY WABEKE. (New York: The Netherlands Information Bureau, 1944. 160 pages, illus. $0.75.)

Foreign Influences in American Life—Essays and Critical Bibliographies. Edited for the Princeton Program of Study in American Civilization, by DAVID F. BOWERS. (Princeton, N. J.: Princeton University Press, 1944. x + 254 pages, illus. $3.00.)

Rendezvous with America. By MELVIN B. TOLSON. (New York: Dodd, Meade & Company, 1944. 121 pages. $2.00.)

"A short account in English of the whole of Dutch emigration to America does not yet exist." Thus begins the Preface to Wabeke's volume. Having stated the need to which he is addressing his research, he proceeds to give us a history of uncommon merit. Lovers of the Netherlands tradition in New York are so generally acquainted with the general story of the Dutch settlements in these parts in the 17th century, and so much that had been previously written has appeared in scarcely varied form in later volumes that the theme has tended to become threadbare. That is all the more reason why this new work is to be welcomed. Wabeke keeps within his field as a historian, letting the flow of events, rather than individual interpretation, be its own spokesman. Further, he knows his bibliography, and has brought treasure out of sources hitherto untapped. The result is that, thanks to The Netherlands Information Bureau, there is now available a work in this specific field to which the serious student will have to turn and which the average reader will peruse with intense satisfaction. The five well-unified chapters begin with (I) "Conditions affecting emigration from Holland in the 17th century," and end with (V) "The great migration," *i. e.*, the discovery of America by the "Seceders," the settlements of Calvinists in Iowa and Michigan, and the Roman Catholic migration.

Copious quotation would be required to show how attractively the author lets facts speak. For example, "It is estimated that at the end of the colonial period there were about 100,000 people of Dutch extraction in America. Of these, 85,000 were in New York, New Jersey, and Delaware —within the original territory of New Netherland. . . . For a century or more after the conquest of New Netherland the Dutch continued to dominate the financial, political, and social life of New York. The Dutch language remained in use in the services of the Reformed Church until 1764 in New York City . . . and Huidekoper found in 1796 that 'on Long Island, in New York, along the North River, etc., the low dutch was yet in general the common language of most of the old people.' . . . When in 1847 the first large-scale emigration of Netherlanders to America set in,

the newcomers found a devoted friend in the Rev. Isaac N. Wyckoff of Albany. As a child in New Jersey Wyckoff had not learned the English language until he went to grade school. . . . He continued to speak Dutch to the end of his life. . . . Thus the oldest Dutch tradition in America was still sufficiently alive to welcome the founders of the new settlements in Michigan and Iowa." Quotation would be profitable, too, from the pages dealing with the settlement at Oldenbarneveld (New York State) of Francis Adrian van der Kemp, of whom Governor Clinton wrote in 1820, "Thus in a secluded, unassuming village, I have discovered the *most learned man in America*, cultivating, like our first parent, his beautiful . . . garden with his own hands."

One omission is observable. The coming to New Amsterdam from Brazil in 1655 of the Spanish-Portuguese Jews of Netherlands nationality and their place in the developing community of New York warrants mention. Can it be that that phase of the subject is being given specialized study by the author?

* * *

Collaborating with Professor Bowers in his work on *Foreign Influences in American Life* are a number of scholars. "The volume is issued under the auspices of the Program of Study in American Civilization at Princeton University and represents material developed and presented in connection with the regular undergraduate conference of the Program held during 1942–1943."

Of the Editor's two contributions among the eight chapter-essays in Part I, the first chapter should be read with extreme care if one is to appreciate the aims as well as the limitations within the field indicated by the somewhat too exhaustive title of the book. "The problem of social and cultural impact" is seen to be a weighty one. In this study, therefore, it is limited historically to the period between 1800 and 1941, to certain types of "agents of impact," notably immigration and "those arising from widely circularized foreign ideas," and also to "certain selected ethnic and national groups and certain phases of American life." The precision with which the Editor thus delimits the study at hand should at once disarm the reader disposed to find in the presentation of factors what may appear to be a somewhat capricious selectiveness. By way of example, were it not for this lengthy statement of measured aims, many a reader, while appreciating the genuinely high quality of Chapter VIII on "Hegel, Darwin and the American Tradition," would cavil at the disproportionate space given to John Dewey. Then, too, one wonders why, apart from its style, so lengthy an essay as "The American Literary Expatriate" should have been included in the collection. Yet on second thought we can fancy that some will be grateful to its author, Professor R. P. Blackmur, of the Chair of Creative Writing at Princeton, for the following example of unfor-

gettable modern English in his reference to certain expatriates: "The later version of this class may be seen in the coveys of zombies who hustled back from France and Italy in 1939 and 1940 and settled in the neighborhood of The Ritz, The Modern Museum, and the proper, sheltered shores of Long Island."

A tribute the present reviewer can pay to this work on "foreign influences" is that he shall keep it on his shelves in anticipation of future re-reading of one or more of its provocative chapters, or for studious consultation of the Critical Bibliographies which constitute Part II. The word "critical" as applied to these bibliographies is apt, for the selection is a careful one—invaluable, indeed, by way of orientation in a complex study. Meanwhile the reviewer shall hope that the wide domain touched by its subject will be elsewhere treated in respect to such vital portions of our culture as the religious contributions of our new citizens, their service in the trades and crafts, the significance to America of the clipper ship era, the socio-political meaning of observations such as those of De Tocqueville and other visitors from abroad, etc., etc.

In a city like New York which from the beginning has had a heterogeneous culture it is hard to fix upon a given time when the impact of the foreign upon the native came newly by way of sharp antithesis. In the middle of the 17th century Father Isaac Jogues commented: "On the Island of Manhatte, and in its environs there may well be four or five hundred men of different sects and nations." At the time of the Revolution (*vid.* Wabeke's work) Dutch traditions were far from eclipsed in the community, and other elements were already noticeable. With the 19th century came the vast immigrations. Yet these varied affluents, each with its peculiar hue, have merged in the stream of our life, which flows with steadiness as it keeps within the deep channel of the democratic way of life.

It is a pleasure to conclude this review with a quotation from Chapter III on "Ethnic and National Impact from a Sociological Point of View," by Prof. J. G. Leyburn of Yale: "It might be suggested that the United States in its experience with 38 million immigrants, may have a contribution to make to our distraught world of to-day. We have, whether by sheer luck or by good common sense, effected a peaceful mingling of diverse cultures under freedom. Had we taken the contrary course of opposition, we should merely have perpetuated the diversities. Despite temporary discriminations and injustices, we have in the long run afforded our immigrants equal opportunity, full citizenship, and equality. And now, in this present crisis, we are being repaid with the loyalty of . . . those of foreign stock. It is conceivable that our American experience might be taken as a model for post-war Europe."

It is not only because of the relevance of its title and the contents suggested by it that Melvin B. Tolson's *Rendezvous with America* is included in this review, but because the poetry within its covers is a strand, among many, that is today being woven into the fabric of beauty that is America. The fact that Tolson is a Negro is not here presented as if literature produced by members of his race were to be assessed by special standards, but rather as a commentary upon the worth of their contributions. Sheer beauty in poetry will always sing, and if it is at the same time the vehicle of deep insights its music will be the greater. Tolson reveals the disciplined art which can create the arresting word and the searching phrase. The flame of protest in his nature against all that is inhuman in man's dealing with his fellow man has a scorching quality, but always it rings sincere. There are many quotable lines, such as this concerning a wise teacher:

Month after month, the pan of his alchemy
Found nuggets of gold where others found alloy.
And the miracle of his integrity
Put bone and blood and soul into girl and boy.

But as pertinent to our present theme the whole of the opening poem has force. We shall limit our closing citation to this:

Into the arteries of the Republic poured
The babels of bloods,
The omegas of peoples,
The moods of continents,
The melting-pots of seas,
The flotsams of isms,
The flavors of tongues,
The yesterdays of martyrs,
The tomorrows of utopias.

Into the matrix of the Republic poured
White gulf streams of Europe,
Black tidal waves of Africa,
Yellow neap tides of Asia,
Niagaras of the little people.

America?
An international river with a legion of tributaries!
A magnificent cosmorama with myriad patterns and colors!
A giant forest with loin-roots in a hundred lands!
A cosmopolitan orchestra with a thousand instruments playing
America!

West End Collegiate Church E. F. Romig

Local History: How to Gather It, Write It, and Publish It. By Donald Dean Parker, revised and edited by Bertha E. Josephson. (Social Science Research Council, 230 Park Ave., New York 17, N. Y., 1944. xiv + 186 pages. $1.00.)

This handbook was written for the Committee on the Guide for the Study of Local History of The Social Science Research Council and was intended to help local historians who are usually amateurs and lack the training and experience of professionals. Its purpose is to give the intelligent amateur "the necessary information for gathering, writing, and publishing the history of his community."

Beginning with the search for data, Dr. Parker thoroughly discusses the sources of information—books, maps, pictures, old residents, manuscripts, newspapers, and public, business, and church records. The section on writing explains the technique of making notes, organizing the material, and putting the parts of the book together; it also contains a suggestive outline that is excellent for any local history. The concluding chapters deal with publishing—the pitfall of many prospective histories. In addition to printing, the author explains the multigraph, photo-offset, and mimeograph processes as means of reducing the cost; and sponsorship by a local organization is suggested. The appendix, which outlines a method of preparing a war history of the community, was written by Dr. Lester J. Cappon, editor of War Records Collector.

This book has a simple and disarming style that seems to urge the reader to begin a history of his community. In spite of the tremendous number of details, the author keeps the problems in hand and they never appear to be overwhelming. The material is so clearly presented that the book is almost the equivalent of having an expert always available to give personal instruction and advice on all phases of the work of producing a history of the community. Both experienced historians and amateurs will want to keep this book on their desks.

Long Island Collection
The Queens Borough Public Library Herbert F. Ricard

Historical Societies in the United States and Canada—A Handbook. Compiled and edited by Christopher Crittenden, Editor, and Doris Goddard, Editorial Associate. (Washington, D. C.: The American Association for State and Local History, 1944. xii + 261 pages. $2.50.)

This handbook is one of those compilations which deserve a greater distribution and use than ordinarily accorded them. As a guide to the location and possessions of the historical societies of the United States and Canada, it should be in the hands of every vacationist and traveler when the present restrictions on travel are raised. For the genealogist and

local historian the book presents a valuable list of possible sources of information.

The handbook lists a total of 1,468 societies in this country and Canada, with their locations, persons to whom to address correspondence, possessions, publications, and other pertinent information. Much of these data is unobtainable elsewhere. A 43-page analytical index makes reference easy.

An interesting insight can be obtained into the growth and development of historical societies. Dr. Crittenden's introductory comments disclose an approximate growth of 56% in the number of societies in the United States and Canada since 1936, when the last issue of the handbook was published. The total listed in 1936 was 583 and in 1944, 904, not counting the 564 societies which were entered in a supplementary list because detailed data could not be obtained for them. While this increase is partly due to a more complete survey in the 1944 publication, nevertheless there is a clear indication of a growing consciousness of local history here and in nearby Canada—a consciousness less dependent in most communities upon the chance occurrence of some historic event or even long years of settlement than upon a general rise in the cultural level.

The book does not pretend to be a complete list of all societies. The omissions were made, however, not through intent, but because of the inevitable difficulties of any such attempt to cover so extensive a field. Several such omissions occur to the mind of the reviewer. Nevertheless, to Dr. Crittenden, Miss Doris Goddard, and the handbook committee is due great credit for their valuable efforts.

Staten Island Historical Society LORING MCMILLEN

The Story of the Americas—The Discovery, Settlement, and Development of the New World. By LELAND DEWITT BALDWIN. (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1943. x + 750 pages, illus. with maps. $3.50.)

The popular sound of Captain Baldwin's title, "The Story of the Americas," may indicate to some readers that it disclaims pretension to historical scholarship; and yet, while it was written for the "delectation and information of the general reader," it is by no means a mere superficial veneer of historical story-telling. While the author's style is at all times amiable, facile, and informative, unfolding a chronicle of epic sweep, nevertheless, the reader is almost at once conscious of the author's superior learning—of the obvious fact that he has delved minutely and exhaustively into historically accurate sources.

The subtitle, "The Discovery, Settlement, and Development of the New World," indicates the scope of the book. It would seem at first glance that an undertaking which is to cover 450 years of New World history from the voyages of Columbus and the cosmography of Waldseemüller right down to the breaking off of relations between the South

American republics and the Axis, and which concerns itself not only with the affairs of two continents but also with the impinging policies of Europe's confused and intricate political intrigues, is, to say the least, breathtaking. Yet the author conscientiously and capably achieves this end with satisfactory success.

The greater part of the chronicle concerns the periods of discovery and settlement and of the many frontiers that had to be conquered, and while relatively less space is given to later developments, this is justifiable in the sense that without such adequate grounding in the early history of the continents the reader could not so easily follow the later developments. The book scores singularly through its sympathetic insight into the contrasting social, economic, and political backgrounds of Canada and the United States and of the Anglo-Saxon and Latin Americas. Such understanding is the necessary beginning of every man's own "good neighbor policy."

These contrasts are nowhere more sharp than between the North American and Latin American attitudes toward the problem of race relations. And nowhere is Captain Baldwin's service to our understanding of Hispanic America better exemplified than in his tracing of the evolution of these relations in South America from the moment of discovery, through the colonial era of Indian, Negro, Latin, and Teuton conflict, with the Spanish Crown exploiting the fissures between races, classes, and regions in order to perpetuate its own control, down to the current incredible variety of mixtures of racial strains. By the end of the colonial period, the population of Hispanic America, though predominantly Indian, was showing a rapid emergence of mestizo (white and Indian), mulatto (white and Negro), zambo (Indian and Negro), and Creole elements. The Negro colored the life as well as the skins of the Hispanic American world; he, in turn, took on the gravity of the Spaniard or the simplicity of the Portuguese. The paternal mildness of the Spanish black codes and the patriarchal nature of the Spanish "family" resulted in widespread contentment among the Negroes. The Indians similarly were from the first regarded by the Spaniards as common subjects—not, as by the English, as independent nations. They were first taken into the Church, then into the state, and finally into the family. The frontier was not so much pushed back as absorbed. Considering the centrifugal forces inevitably operating wherever strange races are thrown together in one geographical area, the facts as related must persuade us to the conclusion that the Hispanic American nations attained a degree of peace and order that does credit to the statesmanship of their citizens.

Captain Baldwin shows neither bias, bitterness, nor favoritism in dealing with whatever phase of his subject you may choose, whether the conduct of the Spanish Crown, the later revolutionary leaders, the Pilgrims in Massachusetts, the problem of miscegenation, or even the Conquista-

dors. To take the latter as an instance: while he traces the course of these rapacious, power-drunk, cunningly ambitious conquerors of a whole continent without glossing over their brutality to the aborigines, he also reveals their signal achievements in establishing Latin culture there and reminds us to judge them by the standards of the world of their time. His purpose throughout is not to criticize, not to plead, but to make us understand.

Nor does the author overlook the field of books, libraries, presses, art, and ideas. We learn, for instance, that a press was established in Mexico as early as 1539, one in Peru as early as 1583, that the first real Mexican newspaper was issued in 1722, that the Hispanic colonial era produced an art as distinctive as "that of Mediaeval cathedrals." Into the texture of his tapestry he weaves the winds of political and social doctrine that blew through the 17th and 18th centuries and contrasts the effects of them in the development of the two Americas and the interaction of these effects between the continents, particularly the repercussions of the American Revolution in creating "the fraternity of freedom" among sister republics to the south. The roles and importance of Miranda, San Martín and Bolívar, Maximilian and Carlotta, are traced in the chapter on "American Revolution—South," and the subsequent developments in both Americas lead up to the concluding chapter, "Unfinished Symphony," which leaves the reader on a provocative and stimulating note.

But even to mention the principal strands of this story—the discoveries of Balboa, the audacious conquest of Mexico by Cortés, the Pizarros and the annexation of the Inca domains, LaSalle's exploration of the Mississippi, the statecraft of the Pilgrim Fathers, Canada from Cartier to Mackenzie King—to give a sampling—would in itself require many pages. The over-all picture is fascinating and the details are so cleverly interwoven into the tapestry that it comes to life with the impact of an epic. The laborious and tedious facts patently gleaned from Oviedo, the historian of the Indies, from Bernal Díaz del Castillo, the historian of the Mexican conquest, and from a myriad other such authentic accounts, are all in the chronicle too, but the reader sees only the pertinences that make his reading enjoyable as well as instructive.

This vast storehouse of information is readily unlocked for reference purposes by an exceptionally workmanlike analytic index. Unfortunately, the book has neither footnotes nor bibliography—a lack particularly regrettable in a work so clearly the result of capable and exhaustive research. However, the author's obvious freedom from personal bias and special pleading lessens the need for these checks of scholarship. The reader can rest assured that in *The Story of the Americas* he is getting a balanced, accurate, and well-rounded account of affairs too often distorted by narrow national or personal perspectives.

HAROLD F. NUTZHORN

ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

MISS DOROTHY C. BARCK, our librarian, represented the Society at a series of interlocking meetings of the American Association for State and Local History, the Society of American Archivists, and the Pennsylvania Historical Association, November 8–11, 1944, at the Penn-Harris Hotel, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Miss Barck was elected president of the American Association for State and Local History, succeeding Edward P. Alexander, director of the Wisconsin State Historical Society. She is the first woman to hold this office. The Association was founded in 1940 in our own auditorium as an outgrowth of the Conference of State and Local Historical Societies of the American Historical Association. Miss Barck was secretary of the Conference at that time, and is a founding member of both the Society of American Archivists and the American Association for State and Local History.

On November 3d, Miss Susan E. Lyman, curator of manuscripts, addressed the American Women's Association at Hotel Barclay in this city on "Shopping in Old New York."

The final months of the old year witnessed a number of interesting events at the Society. Besides the informal discussions by Van Wyck Brooks on October 3d and Captain William Hubbell Pashley, U.S.N., on Navy Day, and lectures by our own Messrs. Shelley and Carlson to students of the School Art League—all announced in the October *Bulletin*—the auditorium accommodated several other functions:

On Sunday, November 5th, Wayman Adams, N. A., in a two-hour demonstration, painted a portrait head before an interested audience as a feature of the Allied Artists show, his subject being one of the exhibitors, a Chinese artist. And on November 18th, at the Annual Meeting of the Allied Artists, more than a dozen awards were made for works on exhibition in Dexter Hall and the adjoining corridor and gallery. The George A. Zabriskie Popular Prize of $100.00 went to Priscilla W. Roberts for her "The Chair by the Front Window." Mr. Zabriskie presented to the Society two New York subjects from this show, which closed November 26th.

The Society of American Historians met in the auditorium of the Society at 3:30 on November 16th.

On December 6th, St. Nicholas Day, members and guests were entertained by the Suzari Marionettes in "Pinocchio" and by the Washington Irving High School Carolers, who sang a group of Christmas songs. President Zabriskie introduced the festivities with a few enlightening remarks about Pinocchio and the history of caroling. After the formal program, the party continued around the Christmas tree in Dexter Hall, where the Hotel Plaza Ensemble furnished background music while the guests visited over their cocoa and Dutch pastries.

A feature of the St. Nicholas Day Festival was a special showing of New York prints, water colors, portraits, maps, furniture, and other historic material from Dutch colonial times down to the consolidation of the five boroughs as Greater New York. The exhibit, entitled "Knickerbocker New York," occupies the second-floor south gallery (formerly the Special Exhibition Gallery), the adjoining east corridor, and all of Dexter Hall. The arrangement begins in the entrance hall to the south gallery, where a model of the *Half Moon* and other materials relating to Hudson's expedition and the first settlements are displayed. The south gallery contains material from three periods: "New York City under the Dutch," "New York City under the English," and "New York City in the Federal Period."

The colorful Dutch room contains the only life portrait, the silver seal, and signed documents of Peter Stuyvesant, the Beekman family kas, the gold wedding ring and silver seal of the first Kiliaen Van Rensselaer, the earliest view of New Amsterdam, and outstanding examples of early New York silver and delftware of the period.

Among the English colonial items, notable are the remains of the equestrian statue of George III and the mutilated marble figure of William Pitt, both erected in 1770 in gratitude for the repeal of the hated Stamp Act and both pulled down at the beginning of the American Revolution—the former by American patriots and the latter by British soldiers. Nearby is the mould used by the Americans for making bullets from the leaden royal figure. In this section are shown some of the rarest views and maps of 18th century New York, important manuscripts, and early books and broadsides printed by William Bradford, John Peter Zenger, and James Rivington.

Some of the particularly fine pieces in the Federal Room include furniture used by the first Congress of the United States when Federal Hall, on Wall Street, was the Capitol, 1789–90, the balcony balustrade behind which Washington took the oath of office as first President of the United States, and the silk flag carried by the Society of Pewterers in the Federal procession which celebrated the adoption of the new Constitution. In this gallery are shown views of the city in the 1790's, books and broadsides relating to the establishment of New York State government and of the new Federal government.

The east corridor displays prints, water colors, and photographs picturing lower and upper Manhattan in the 19th century, selected from the Society's outstanding collection. In Dexter Hall portraits of eminent New Yorkers of the 19th century complete the New York story. Opened to the public on December 7th, the "Knickerbocker New York" exhibit will continue indefinitely.

The Red Cross unit which was established at the Society on October 5, 1942, and did such splendid work during the ensuing years, was discon-

tinued shortly before Christmas, having fulfilled the purpose for which it was organized. Nearly 20,000 work-days were donated by the ladies of the unit during the year. Their going frees the large room immediately to the right as one enters the building, for use as a Special Exhibition Gallery.

The first of such special exhibitions, Wings Over the Central Pacific, will open at a private showing for members and guests on January 7th and continue throughout the month. This exhibition of enlarged photographs, maps, bas-reliefs, and souvenirs of life in the Central Pacific islands will tell the story of the smashing aerial offensive of the Seventh Air Force from Pearl Harbor to the operations in the Bonin Islands within 650 miles of Tokyo. The Tarawa, Makin Island, and Saipan campaigns, among others, will be represented. Captain Lynn D. Poole of the AAF, now somewhere in the South Pacific, initiated the exhibit, and Captain Maston M. Jacks of the War Department Bureau of Public Relations, Air Forces Group, coöperated in making the arrangements for it. Families of the New York City boys in the Seventh Air Force will be invited to lend war relics sent home from the Pacific war zone and to attend the opening of the exhibit.

Mr. Harold Gatty, who is personally acquainted with the Commanding General of the Seventh Air Force and a close friend of his Chief of Staff, will address the visitors to this exhibition on Sunday afternoon, January 7th, at 3:30 in the auditorium. Everyone will recall, of course, that Mr. Gatty, with Wiley Post as pilot, navigated the "Winnie Mae" in the famous flight of 1931 in which he broke all records by circumnavigating the globe in 8 days, 15 hours, and 51 minutes. In 1943, Mr. Gatty published *The Raft Book, Lore of the Sea and Sky*, to instruct airmen downed at sea or other shipwrecked servicemen how to sustain life and find their way to land without instruments or previous experience in navigation. The method is based on that of the Polynesians. A concentrated waterproofed edition of this work, enclosed in a waterproofed envelope, was published for actual installation in rafts and lifeboats. The subject of Mr. Gatty's talk will be "The Islands and Peoples of Micronesia." It is from these islands that the Seventh Air Force has been operating.

Following the "Wings Over the Central Pacific" exhibit, scheduled to close in January, a Military Gallery, to be called "G. I. Joe in Eight Wars," will be installed in the large room to the right of the entrance. A private showing for members and guests will follow a lecture on a related topic in the auditorium on February 13th. The exhibit will cover two centuries of American military history, 1745–1945, from the French and Indian Wars to World War II, and will include firearms, powder horns, swords, flags, uniforms, letters, diaries, uniform buttons and other equipment excavated from old camp sites, portraits, prints, and World War

posters. It will open to the public February 14th and continue at least into the summer.

Mr. Henry O. Havemeyer was elected to the Board of Trustees to fill the vacancy created by the death of Mr. Delafield, and Mr. DeWitt M. Lockman was added to the Committee on Fine Arts. The April exhibition of twentieth century American portraits, now being arranged by that committee, is announced elsewhere in this *Bulletin.*

In his Communication in the April 1941 *Bulletin*, President Zabriskie announced the desire of the Society to publish at a future date its General Horatio Gates Papers, 1726 (1750–1803) 1816, which came to the Society in 1816 intact as Gates left them. This is by far the largest and most important collection of Gates material and its publication will be a valuable contribution to the documentary literature not only of the Revolution but of the entire period from the French and Indian Wars to the turn of the century and into the Jefferson Administration. "To give some idea of the size of our job," Mr. Zabriskie wrote, "it is only necessary to point out that there are some 4,475 letters to and from General Gates between the years 1773 and 1783, one hundred and forty-eight from Washington alone." Mr. Zabriskie estimated that, with index and "some few additional papers that now are in the possession of the William L. Clements Library, Ann Arbor, Michigan, the Library of Congress, and the New York Public Library, the completed work would comprise eleven or twelve volumes." The first of these volumes is now in preparation as Volume LXXVII of the John Watts DePeyster Publication Fund Series, which will constitute the *Collections of The New-York Historical Society for the Year 1944.* Since Mr. Zabriskie wrote his communication, some 700 letters, two manuscript volumes of letters, and a few scattered documents have been located in an even dozen of libraries throughout the country, including those mentioned by Mr. Zabriskie. In order that our publication may be as definitive as possible, an effort will be made to arrange for the inclusion of that material in the projected volumes and the editor will welcome information from any source concerning other extant Gates material, particularly in private libraries and collections.

Another publication of the Society now in preparation and for which data from members or other interested persons is invited is "A Dictionary of American Artists to 1860." This work will be as complete a listing as possible of every painter, illustrator, cartoonist, sculptor, silhouettist, engraver, and lithographer who worked in America in or prior to 1860 or was born here not later than 1840. This work is an outgrowth of *1440 Early American Portrait Artists (1663–1860)*, compiled and published by the New Jersey Historical Records Survey, 1940, under the direction of Dr. George C. Groce, Jr. The unpublished revised edition of this volume,

expanded under Dr. Groce's direction to some 2,800 entries, came to us from the Historical Records Survey of New York City when that project was discontinued a couple of years ago. The Society is in process of rechecking the data in this manuscript volume and incorporating into it entries for artists other than portraitists, so that the published work will contain perhaps quadruple the number of entries of the *1440 Early American Portrait Artists*. It is also hoped that the errors of that preliminary volume will be eliminated from the work in preparation. We are fortunate to have the benefit of Dr. Groce's guidance and experience in continuing this project, for which Miss E. Marie Becker, our library research assistant, is doing the bulk of the spade work.

We need your help. The type of information for which we will be most grateful is not to be found among the published sources, but concerns the activities of local artists likely to have been overlooked by art historians and compilers of reference works. If you know of such an artist who worked in or prior to 1860 or was born not later than 1840—be he a landscape water-colorist, a carver of ships' figure-heads, a wood-cut engraver, or what not—we shall appreciate as much of the following information about him as you can give: his full name, where and when he was born and died, the places where he worked and exhibited and the inclusive dates of his sojourn there, the media in which he worked (oils, lithography, etc.), the kinds of subjects he portrayed (portraits, landscapes, genre scenes, cartoons, etc.), *and the source or sources of your information*. Address communications to the editor of the Society.

RECENT ACCESSIONS

THE SOCIETY was the recipient during the final months of 1944 of an exceptionally interesting assortment of valuable gifts, including one of the most revealing of all Jefferson letters, the two oldest family heirlooms handed down in direct line in America, an unusual collection of Mexican diplomatic material of the Maximilian period, and several portraits of important subjects. Some of these donations are:

Twenty-three Currier & Ives political cartoons of the Lincoln presidential campaigns. *Gift of Mr. H. W. Acton and Mrs. Arietta H. A. Brooks* in memory of their grandfather, Thomas C. Acton.

Cameo of Washington Irving Lintz (b. 1833) and oil portraits of five members of the Lintz and Sneckner families. *Gift of Miss Edith A. Bagg.*

A wall pocket with initials "M. G.", 1757, and an embroidered wool pocketbook, *c.* 1745, made by Mary Geer Denison, probably at Norwich, Conn.; five pieces of crewel embroidery, one marked "1706," and a petit

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY AMERICAN EMBROIDERY
Wall Pocket, 1757—Pocketbook, *c.* 1745
Gift of Mrs. J. Insley Blair, 1944

point bag; Staffordshire tea set showing the *Cadmus* and the *Clermont* in black; curly maple sampler frame with silver plate inscribed "M. McIlvain," made in Pennsylvania, late 18th century; vellum-bound volume, *Bellerophon of Lust tot Wiisheit* (Amstelredam [1648]), by Dirck Pietersz Pers. *Gift of Mrs. J. Insley Blair.*

Portrait of General James Bowen (1808–86) and photograph of his residence at Hastings-on-Hudson, 1861; plaster busts of gentleman and lady, probably the parents of General Bowen. *Gift of Mrs. Harry Arnold Day.*

Black silk Quaker cap, 1790, and two bonnets, one of tan beaver, the other of straw, 1843, worn by Mary Marshall, Philadelphia; two dresses, silk, 1885, and wool, 1894; a collection of hats, 1858–1900. *Gift of Mrs. James DeGraff.*

Two early views of Buffalo—an 1842 lithograph by E. Whitefield and an 1853 engraving by J. H. Cohen; two engravings by A. H. Ritchie—"Lady Washington's Reception" and "The Signing of the Declaration of Independence," with identifying keys. *Gift of Mr. Walter Evans Devereux.*

Six Empire-style chairs and a drop-leaf table, made in New York City about 1843, a mahogany console table, a tip table from the old Astor

House; a Dresden china tea set purchased for the donor's grandmother at the New York Crystal Palace in 1858; a collection of dolls and toys, including two miniature rooms. *Gift of Mrs. Florence Rogers Dietrich.*

Oil portrait of donor's uncle, William Bunker, of New York City and Ridgefield, Conn., by John W. Alexander. *Gift of Mrs. William C. Hart.*

Manuscript correspondence and records of the Imperial Mexican Consulate at New York, 1865–67, preserved by the donor's maternal grandfather, Chevalier Charles Frederick de Loosey, Imperial Austrian Consul General at New York, after the death of Emperor Maximilian, including four volumes of letters received from the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, five volumes of embassy, consular and sundry letters received, and letter-press copies of letters from Don Luis de Arroyo, Consul General; a volume of newspaper clippings concerning Mexico, 1863–66, collected by Chevalier de Loosey; a collection of Mexican and other newspapers, 1863–67, including five volumes (1865–67) of *El Diario del Imperio*, 94 numbers (1865–66) of *El Monitor Veracruzano*, and 102 numbers (April–August, 1865) of *La Revista*, Veracruz; Charles F. Loosey's *Collection of the Laws of Patent Privileges*, preface dated Vienna, May 1, 1849. *Gift of Mr. Henry O. Havemeyer.*

Many additions to the Landauer Collection of Business Ephemera, including volumes on dress as a fine art (Boston and Cleveland, 1854), women's fashions in France from Gallo-Roman times to 1882, the Friends of Domestic Industry (Baltimore, 1831), and *The Dictionary of Merchandise and Nomenclature in All Languages* . . . (Phila., 1805), and *The Panorama of Professions and Trades or Every Man's Book* (Phila., 1837). *Gift of Mrs. Bella C. Landauer.*

Miniature portraits of Martha Brookes Waller (Mrs. Joseph E. Waller, 1812–97), Anna Brookes (1814–74), Anna B. Waller (1844–1909), and Ella S. Waller (1849–1931); 16 daguerreotypes of members of the Brookes and Waller families from the 1840's through the 1860's; 7 early manuscript deeds of those families, 1751–1802; 20 receipts, notes, etc., of the firm of La Tourette, Waller, and Cocke; 12 mid-nineteenth century bookmarks; and an 1857 catalogue of the Collegiate School, New York City. *Gift of Mr. Walter S. Poor.*

Empire-style wedding dress worn by Ann Eliza Carow who married Robert Kermit on December 4, 1832, in New York City. *Gift of Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Sr.*

Ten miniatures on ivory and two pencil portraits of various subjects by J. Phillip Schmand. *Gift of Mrs. J. Phillip Schmand*, widow of the artist.

Civil War manuscripts of donor's father, Harmanus P. Schuyler (1842–1909): four military appointments, a discharge, and his account of the Battles of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge, November, 1863; commission of George H. Swartwout, the donor's maternal grandfather,

JAMES STOKES (1804–1881)
Oil portrait by Daniel Huntington, 1872
Gift of I. N. Phelps Stokes, his grandson, 1944

signed by Abraham Lincoln; woven woolen spread from the Swartwout family, marked in silk "1775." *Gift of Mr. H. Philip Schuyler.*

Oil portrait of James Stokes (1804–81), the donor's grandfather, by Daniel Huntington, 1872. *Gift of the late I. N. Phelps Stokes.*

Silver seal of Kiliaen Van Rensselaer, the First Patroon of Rensselaerwyck, and the wedding ring he gave his bride, Anna Van Wely (or Weely), December 14, 1627, which have descended through the eldest male child of each generation to the donor, who is 15th Patroon and 13th Lord of the Manor; oil portrait of General Stephen Van Rensselaer (1764–1839), the donor's great-grandfather, showing the subject seated in the library of the Manor House which stood on Broadway, north of Albany—ascribed by the donor to Samuel F. B. Morse. *Gift of Mr. Kiliaen Van Rensselaer V.* (See pages 23, 24, and 33 for illustrations.)

Oil portraits of four Presidents of the United States by Henry R. Rittenberg: Ulysses Simpson Grant (1822–85), Chester Alan Arthur (1830–86), Benjamin Harrison (1833–1901), and William McKinley (1843–1901); letter of Thomas Jefferson to John Norvell of Danville, Ky., dated June 11, 1807, outlining the President's ideas on control of the press; letter of Washington Irving to Rev. Frederick Bobbett, dated Sunnyside, March 5, 1858; acknowledgement from the Trustees of Astor Library signed by Washington Irving as president, June 12, 1855; two volumes of Irving's works; oil painting of Gracie Mansion by Isabella B. Markell and water color of East River by Florence Whitehill, both paintings purchased from the Allied Artists show in the Society's galleries; colored lithograph, "Ice Boating on the Hudson," by Fred Cozzens; etching, "Fall Whir," by Frederick K. Detwiller; collection of 22 original letters of distinguished American naval heroes, 1801–85, with engraved portraits of six of the writers; four volumes of works by Chauncey M. Depew and a chronology of his ancestry by William A. Eardeley, 1918; 18 publications by amateur printers and publishers, 1943–44; 18 other works of historical interest. *Gift of Mr. George A. Zabriskie.*

MEMBERSHIP

Members, on their election, pay ten dollars as dues, and thereafter on the first day of January each year a like amount, or a life membership fee of one hundred dollars, in lieu of all other dues and fees.

Applications may be sent to the Recording Secretary.

Members have the privilege of introducing visitors to the galleries and library of the Society by their card or a note, and of bringing two persons with them to the lectures, and will receive the *Quarterly Bulletins* and *Annual Reports*.

The contribution of one thousand dollars shall entitle the donor to be elected a Fellow for life.

The contribution of five thousand dollars to the funds of the Society shall entitle the donor to be elected a Patron of the Society in perpetuity.

THE NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, CENTRAL PARK WEST & 77TH STREET

FOUNDED 1804

HOURS

THE ART GALLERIES AND MUSEUM

Open free to the public daily except Mondays,
from 1 to 5 P.M.
Saturdays: 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.

THE LIBRARY

Open daily except Sundays: 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.
Holidays: 1 to 5 P.M.

The building is closed on New Year's Day, July 4th, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, and during the month of August.

THOMPSON HOMESTEAD MEMORIAL MUSEUM

EAST HAMPTON, LONG ISLAND
Open during the summer only

EGYPTIAN COLLECTIONS

The Egyptian Collections of The New-York Historical Society are on exhibition in The Brooklyn Museum, weekdays, from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.; Sundays and holidays, from 1 to 5 P.M.